

REMARKS/DISCUSSION:

This Response E is being filed within three months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on July 19, 2007. Accordingly, a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is made a part of the electronic filing transmission filed herewith.

By this Response E, claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11-13, 15, 17-20 and 22 remain pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 5, 7-9, 16 and 18-20.

In order to place this application in condition for allowance, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 5 (claim 5 now canceled); Claim 7 has been amended to be independent and to include the subject matter of claim 1; and claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 16 (claim 16 now canceled).

Amendment and/or cancellation of claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims previously presented. Further, Applicant(s) reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. This Amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1,4,6 and 11 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,242,385 to Strukel as noted in the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 5 (claim 5 now canceled); claims 4, 6 and 11 are dependent upon claim 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17 and 22 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Strukel as noted in the Office Action.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 16 (claim 16 now canceled). Claims 13, 15, 17 and 22 are dependent upon claim 12.

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Conclusion

Applicant submits that in view of the discussion, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 has been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END0701/VEK.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATED: May 12, 2008